Assessment of Project Tiger

1031. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether on the completion of 20 years marking the first phase of Project Tiger, on April, 1993 an assessment of the success of the project had been made; and

(b) if so, the details of the assessment, and the setbacks found to have been received by the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS : (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) On completion of 20 years of existence of 'Project Tiger' which was launched on April, 1, 1973, a review was made to assess the success made/set-backs experienced in the management of the Tiger Reserves. It was felt that the Project, apart from conserving the tiger, has helped in protecting a wide spectrum of floral and faunal species. The set backs experienced are—peripheral habitat degradation in some areas due to increase in biotic pressure; increasing threats of poaching; armed activists taking refuge in the Tiger Reserve areas etc.

Wild Life Preservation Act

1032. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that section 9 of the Wild Life Preservation Act 1972 prohibits hunting and Section 50 of this Act provides for details of punishment of contravention of the provisions of this Act;

(b) whether it is a fact that Shri Vikram Thapar of the Thapar Group of Companies was apprehended by Police on 24th January, 1993 while shooting rare species of wild animals in the Hastinapur swamp Deer Sanctuary in Muzaffarnagar; and whether it is a fact that the FIR lodged by the police against him in the concerned Police Station has now mysteriously disappeared.

(c) whether it is a fact that the Wild Life authorities have taken up the matter at the highest level with Government of India protesting against the criminal actions of the section of one of India's leading industrial houses; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken against the said persons under the Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir, Sec. 9 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 prohibits hunting and Sec 51 provides for details of punishment for contravention of provision of this Act.

(b) On 23-1-93 one Shri Vikram Thapar was apprehended by the police on the charge of poaching of wild animals in Hastinapur Sanctuary. As per reports received from Wild Life and police authorities of Meerut, the FIR of the cases is not missing.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has taken up the matter with the U.P. Government for effectively persuing the case. Seven persons have

been arrested in the case under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The Advisor, U.P. Government has requested the IGP, Meerut Zone to hand over the case to Forest Department for prosecution in a court of law and the District Magistrate, Muzaffarnagar has been asked to get the licences of the Arms used in the offence cancelled.

Afforestation Project in Baspa Valley in Kinnaur District Himachal Pradesh

1033. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision of the Himachal Pradesh Government for revising the estimated cost of the compensatory afforestation in Baspa Valley in Kinnaur district almost 50 per cent from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 10 crores;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any enquiry into the circumstances leading to such a revision in the cost of the Project;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No formal communication has been received from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for revising the cost of compensatory afforestation in respect of Baspa Hydro Electric Project in Baspa Valley, in district Kinnaur.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Gujjars ask for Rajaji management

1034. SHRI SOM PAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Indian Express of 6th April, 1993 captioned "Gujjars ask for Rajaji management";

(b) if so, whether Government would consider the proposal of Gujjar Tribals Panchayat on forest management in view of the Rio conference declaration on involving local forest people in conserving and augmenting forests;

(c) whether Government propose a comprehensive plan along these lines for other forest and tribal areas of the country; and

(d) if not, why ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Government have seen the press report.

(b) While the concept of people's participation in afforestation and protection of forests on usufruct sharing basis has been adopted by the Government and the guidelines therefor have been issued to State Governments in 1990 long before the Rio conference, the concept is not of relevance to management of protected areas which constitute about 4% of the total forests and have to be preserved as reservoirs of biodiversity. The Rio Conference also recognised the fact that loss of bio diversity has continued to occur from habitat destruction, over harvesting and introduction of cattle in the habitats and that urgent and decisive